



Expanding Access to Health Care

"Without health care coverage, parents cannot be productive in the workplace, and children cannot succeed in school. I am committed to expanding access to health care for Missouri families and reducing the number of uninsured citizens in our state."

Governor Jay Nixon

Governor Nixon knows that to compete in the new economy, Missouri families need health insurance. Workers must be healthy to succeed on the job. Children must be healthy to succeed in school. Part of any economic recovery plan must address the growing number of uninsured citizens.

To further his commitment to address this serious issue, Governor Nixon is taking the first step by working with state legislative leaders to forge a bipartisan plan that will decrease the number of uninsured Missourians and maintain health care coverage currently provided by the State of Missouri in a fiscally responsible manner.

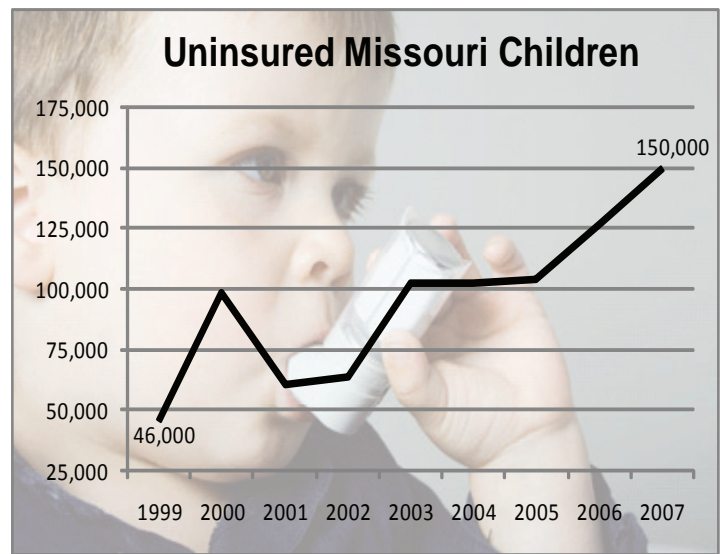
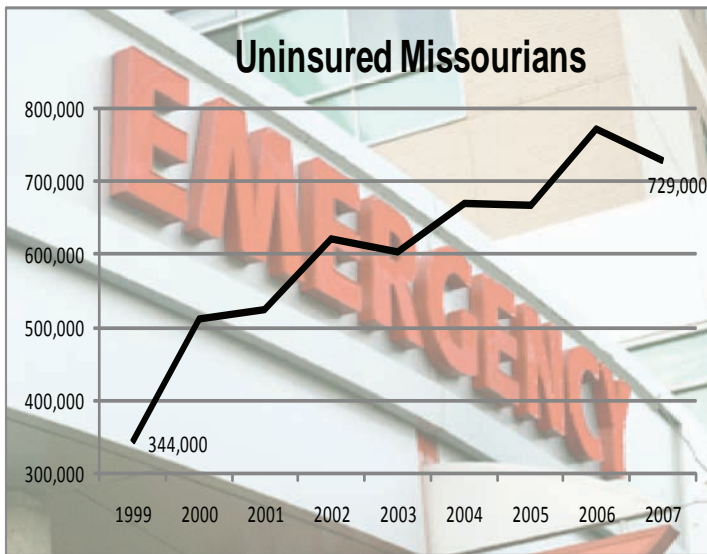
Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2010 budget and legislative priorities will:

- Expand access to health care for working Missourians and children; and
- Maintain vital health care services provided by the state.



Health Care Access

Rising medical costs and insurance premiums are making it harder for the average Missourian to afford health insurance. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of uninsured individuals has more than doubled in Missouri over the last eight years. Currently, more than 728,000 Missourians lack health insurance. During the same period, the number of uninsured Missouri children more than tripled.



Coverage for Uninsured Missourians

State leaders agree that a healthy workforce is a more productive workforce. Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2010 budget takes the first step to fund health coverage for an additional 62,000 Missourians, including over 27,000 children. The Governor's plan to decrease the number of uninsured his first year:

- Expands eligibility thresholds to cover an additional 34,000 working parents.
- Eliminates premiums for children living between 150 percent and 225 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), so more children will enroll in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).
- Provides children continuous eligibility, so parents don't have to fear loss of coverage if their family or job situation changes.
- Streamlines the premiums for children between 225 percent and 300 percent of the FPL, so their coverage costs a standard \$50 per month.
- Enhances outreach efforts to make sure those eligible for coverage throughout the state are enrolled.

Health Care Access

Senior Services

Missouri is home to more than 780,000 citizens age 65 and older. Governor Nixon values Missouri seniors and supports programs to assist them in maintaining an independent and active lifestyle. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2010 budget preserves vital state funding to the Area Agencies on Aging for programs such as home-delivered meals and home health assistance.

A More Efficient and Effective Health Care System

Right now, more than 60 state agencies, boards, and commissions are involved in setting and enforcing health care policy for the State of Missouri. To make government work smarter and more efficiently, Governor Nixon will conduct thorough performance reviews of all state agencies, including the agencies involved with health care delivery in Missouri.

In addition, the Governor will appoint a Blue Ribbon Commission charged with developing comprehensive plans to improve health care delivery through the use of modern information technology.

Focus on Successful Prevention Programs

Prevention programs are important to the long-term health of Missourians. The Governor pledges to look for opportunities to expand the state's prevention efforts. Toward this end, Governor Nixon will:

- Direct state health agencies to conduct a thorough review of services to identify areas where preventative screenings and testing are needed and where services can be expanded.
- Promote access to adequate pre-natal care and childhood immunizations.
- Focus on reducing childhood obesity.
- Support efforts to combat youth smoking.

Maintain Vital Services

Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Highlights

Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget includes:

- ❖ \$7.1 billion for Missouri's Medicaid program, including a \$360.8 million increase over FY 2009 to maintain current eligibility and service levels.
- ❖ \$231.1 million (\$37 million general revenue) to expand health care coverage to an additional 62,000 Missourians, including over 27,000 children.
- ❖ \$360,000 for the Missouri Quality Homecare Council to coordinate care for elderly and disabled clients served by state programs. Missouri voters approved establishing the Council in November 2008.
- ❖ No reduction in direct services to non-Medicaid patients in the Department of Mental Health, or to seniors or individuals with disabilities served by the Department of Health and Senior Services.
- ❖ \$44.1 million for local Area Agencies on Aging.
- ❖ \$9 million for core public health functions provided through local health departments.
- ❖ \$91.2 million for state-operated habilitation centers, which serve developmentally disabled consumers.
- ❖ \$3.8 million for genetic screening for 29 conditions in 81,000 newborns each year.
- ❖ \$2.6 million for the Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment Grant, which provides substance abuse screenings.
- ❖ \$1.8 million for staff training programs at Department of Mental Health facilities throughout the state.
- ❖ \$1.5 million for ongoing efforts to combat youth smoking.
- ❖ \$1.2 million for the state's Office of Minority Health.